

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 583

By Barnes

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. John David Laida for meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has been exceptionally fortunate during its history to benefit from the outstanding leadership provided by those committed Ministers of the Gospel who lead churches across this State and who, with their congregations, provide the bedrock strength that defines an orderly and just society; and

WHEREAS, one such dedicated pastor and church leader is Dr. John David Laida, who served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Clarksville for twenty-eight years and who will celebrate his 90th birthday on July 26, 2009; and

WHEREAS, born on a dairy farm in upstate New York in 1919, Dr. Laida married the former Elizabeth Browning of Nashville, and together, they are the proud parents of four daughters: Debbie, Susan, Connie, and Gayle; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Laida proudly served his country as a Chaplain during World War II; holding the rank of Major, he valiantly served with the 30th Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, a committed scholar, he has received degrees from Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois; Gordon College, Boston, Massachusetts; Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; and pursued graduate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John David Laida became the 18th Pastor of First Baptist Church in Clarksville in 1960, and served the church with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm in performing God's work for the next twenty-eight years until his retirement in 1987; and

WHEREAS, this stalwart servant of the Lord capably led the members of First Baptist Church to the greatest growth in their history and implemented the building of the third Activities Center for a Baptist church in the State in 1969; and

WHEREAS, he also played a key role in the establishment of the Good Samaritan Medical Clinic of Clarksville; funded by First Baptist Church, the clinic has met the medical needs of those who cannot afford medical insurance since 1983; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Dr. Laida demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are delighted to join in honoring this committed Christian and dynamic leader in the realm of church and civic life, as he is an eminent citizen of Tennessee and of his community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the congregation of First Baptist Church in celebrating "Dr. John David Laida Day" on July 26, 2009. We commend Dr. John David Laida for his many years of honorable service and spiritual inspiration to his congregation and his community, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.